



# LARC



Volume 60, Number 04

ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC., INC. - a 501(c)3 Corporation April 2020

## **A Message from our President Chris Ancelet N5MCY**

*Dated March 16, 2020*

As we continue to deal with the COVID-19 situation, it is important to be mindful of your own personal health and well-being. After the closure of gatherings greater than 250 from the Governor, many of us were having smaller conversations regarding AARA General Meetings. I felt it necessary to draft some correspondence to everyone on how we will proceed until these state of affairs are behind us.

1. AARA Annual Banquet – At this time, we will postpone this event until a later date that is more suitable for larger gatherings. It was brought up to even incorporate this into the 2020 ARRL Field Day. That is one of many options that will need to be investigated further.

2. April General Meeting – According to Paul McCasland, the Lafayette Science Museum has temporarily suspended operations and, in turn, will impact our ability to gather as a club. At this time, the April 2nd meeting will be canceled. In the interim, I would encourage every to become more active in the weekly nets that are already in play and that everyone can attend without compromise.

3. New AARA Officers – in accordance to Article VI – Section 2 of the Club bylaws:

**The officers of this association will be elected for a term of approximately one (1) year that begins at the first meeting after the association sponsored hamfest or April 1st, whichever occurs first and ends after the next association sponsored hamfest or April 1st of the following year, whichever occurs first; or resignation from office; or removal from office; or termination of membership of that member.**

Based on this clause, all newly appointed board members will begin their term beginning on April 1st since there is much uncertainty on our next official gathering.

Please stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. I will do my very best to keep everyone abreast of changes going forward. I would like to thank everyone for their continued support, and I wish everyone well.

Chris Ancelet N5MCY

---

**TBD**

**Lafayette Science Museum 433 Jefferson St. Lafayette, LA  
VE Testing 6:00 PM [w5ddl.org](http://w5ddl.org)**

---

*The LARC is published monthly  
By the  
Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.  
P. O. Box 51174  
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### **GENERAL MEETING**

TBD @ 7:00 PM

Lafayette Science Museum  
433 Jefferson Street  
Lafayette, LA

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/>

### **Local 2-Meter Nets**

#### **Monday**

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM  
146.820 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

#### **Tuesday**

Region 4 SkyWarn Net 7:00 PM  
145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

#### **Wednesday**

Silent Key Memorial Net 6:30 PM  
146.820 PL 103.5 New Iberia, LA

### **AARA OFFICERS 2019 - 2020**

President – Chris Ancelet N5MCY  
cancelet@gmail.com

V. Pres. - Derek Meche WM5TS

Secr – David McCutcheon KG5JHR

Treasurer - Tom Dischler W5OHJ

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP

Steve Webre AF5VR

Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF

### **YOUTH MEMBER**

Patrick Taylor – KG5YFR

### **QSL MANAGER**

Chris Ancelet – N5MCY

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

Herman Campbell - KN5GRK  
337-234-5364 kn5grk@lusfiber.net

### **AARA REPEATER GROUP**

David Redfern N4ELM - Trustee

Derek Meche WM5TS

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Joseph “Moe” Meaux

jdmeaux2002@gmail.com

### **Web Master**

David McCutcheon KG5JHR

## **March 2020**



### **VE Test Session**

**March 5, 2020**

***Started off this month with a straight win.  
Four for Four tonight.***

***The candidates were Chad Comeaux  
~KI5IPY ~ of Youngsville, Matthew  
McKellar~KI5IPZ ~ of Lafayette, Jason  
Noel ~ KI5IQA ~ of Opelousas, and  
Jason Olivier ~ KI5IQB ~ of Arnaudville  
All got their tickets/***

***The VEs for this session were:***

***Michael Cavell KI5ARX***

***William Redfearn N4ELM***

***John Cunniff W4HVV***

***Galen Wilson KF5BET***

***Richard Wallace KF5KFL***

***Congratulations to the testees & a great  
big thank you to the VEs in attendance.....***

**73, de Greg ~ K5LFT**



---

*Dated March 15, 2020    General Message to the AARA Clubmembers*

There comes a time in every organization when you are faced with adversity and how you fair is directly proportional to the strength of your team. The Acadiana Amateur Radio Association was faced with this exact adversity for the 60th Annual Hamfest. From logistics, volunteers, vendors, venue, city officials, etc, we all know how difficult a task of this scale can be and it takes a machine firing on all cylinders to be successful. Months of planning go into a successful hamfest and this year proved to be the most challenging yet. While just kicking off the 60th Annual AARA Hamfest, we began receiving notifications on local news outlets and social media sites, that the Governor just declared a state of emergency amidst the COVID-19 virus. Most of us didn't think much of it until shortly later, the Mayor of the City of Rayne called to advise that we would be able to continue the Friday portion of our venue but the Saturday gathering would have to be canceled due to the event size.

Our initial reaction was similar to the wind being taken out of your sail, but there was no hysteria. The AARA leadership gathered and discussed the news and rather than panicking about how this would impact our organization, the conversation was more along the lines of the following:

How do we make the most out of the remaining hours of the event?

Vendor notification.

Visitor notification.

How do we make everyone whole?

It was decided to continue as though we were in the final hours of the "Day 2" event and to continue to raffle off everything that we had on hand. Pull all vendors in privately to break the news and ask for feedback. Make a general announcement to the public about the situation and the plans moving forward and finally, offer reimbursement to the folks who had pre-registered and did not make it yet. As I sat back and observed, I saw the leadership of the AARA remain calm and rational; keeping everyone who had traveled to our venue a 1st priority.

As the news was delivered, you could see the disappointment in the air but everyone understood that these decisions were made at a higher level and it was completely out of our control. You would have expected that everyone would have started flooding to the doors to leave, but that wasn't the case. We began to receive an overwhelming amount of support from everyone there. Some approached me and said "Hey man, it's OK. Nothing you guys could have done to prevent this", or "Don't worry about this, we are already planning to come back next year". These conversations were meaningful, it proved to me that we were doing things in the right manner.

We even received a monetary donation from a Louisiana Club, who wanted to remain anonymous. They approached me and said that they understood the countless number of man-hours that go into making a successful event and they wanted to contribute to offset some of the cost. To that Louisiana Ham Club, your act of professionalism & humbleness was greatly appreciated. On behalf of the AARA we wish you continued success and well-being.

~ continued on Page 4 ~

---

~~ continued from Page 3 ~~

To all who traveled near and far, we thank you for the continued support. We are grateful to have such an understanding ham community and none of this would be possible without the support of everyone who attends. Soon, this viral outbreak will be in our rear view mirror and we will get back to a sense of normalcy. In the interim, please keep our country in your prayers.

I opened by mentioning that how you fair is directly proportional to the strength of your team and the members of the Acadiana Amateur Radio Association truly demonstrated continued strength through this unnerving situation. We are a stronger club than we were a year ago, and I am grateful to each of you for your continued contributions. While this Hamfest proved to be challenging it is important to remember that individually we are impressive, together we are unstoppable.

Respectfully,

Chris Ancelet - N5MCY

President - Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

---

## Raffle Ticket Winners

AL-811 AMP & MFJ-994B Tuner  
MFJ-259D Antenna Analyzer  
MFJ-4230MV Power Supply  
MFJ-1126 Power Strip

KA5RKH David Fullerton, Church Point, LA  
W5TGK - Robert Wells, Centerville, LA  
N5XES - Tyrone Burns, Springfield, LA  
K5CNU - James Romero, Maurice, LA

---

A time of crisis has come upon us. Because of this, all of our lives have been turned upside-down to various degrees. Due to a decree from our Governor's Office, our 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest was cut short. Many who wanted to attend on the Saturday were unable to.

Since then, many changes have been made to the way we travel and spend time away from our houses. In many places, fewer people are out shopping. In other places, some people act like they don't want to hear the message.

I want to let everyone to know that your health, your family's health, and your friends' health are important. Take care of yourself. Use some common sense.

Next year will be different. For better or worst, it is not in our hands.

Joseph "Moe" Meaux K2JDM  
Editor of LARC Newsletter

## Local 2-Meter Nets

### MONDAY

*AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM*  
**146.820 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA**

### WEDNESDAY

*Silent Key Memorial Net 6:30 PM*  
**146.820 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA**



### TUESDAY

*Region 4 Skywarn Net 7:00 PM*  
**145.370 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA**

## *AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net*

Net Controllers will rotate each week and held on the 146.820 W5DDL Repeater only.

The AARA Monday Night Net and the Silent Key Memorial Net is being held on the 146.820.

The March 2020 schedule can be downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website. [Net Schedules](#)

## *REGION 4 SKYWARN NET*

Each Tuesday night at 7:00 PM (local), the Region 4 Skywarn Net will take place on the 145.370 Skywarn Repeater in Lafayette, LA. Net Control Operators will alternate each week.

In case the 145.370 repeater fails, the net will be held on the 146.820 W5DDL repeater PL Tone 103.5.

The March 2020 schedule can be found at this link: [Net Schedules](#)

When using the Skywarn 145.370 repeater, be sure to use the receiver PL tone for your area as follows:

NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 - SW Quadrant 141.3 - SE Quadrant 94.8 - Central 103.5

See our website for additional information: <http://www.w5ddl.org/repeaters.htm>



03-12	KM6WDY	Mary
03-13	K5NCA	Bill
03-16	KK6EWB	Ingo
03-18	KI5FEC	Laura
03-22	KA5RKH	David
03-31	N0JA	Allen
04-06	KE5JXC	Arnold
04-08	KF5BET	Galen
04-13	N4ELM	Dave

*Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing names to be missing from the list.*

*Don't forget to renew your membership by January 31<sup>st</sup>.*

*Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.*  
*P. O. Box 51174*  
*Lafayette, LA 70505-1174*  
*Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>*



*Share the Fun ~  
Bring a Friend  
to be a HAM.*

---

### ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

---

**Field Day**                      **June 27-28, 2020**      **TBD**

*For any additional information, check the [W5DDL.org](http://W5DDL.org) website*

---

#### ***FCC Information Service***

*Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur  
Radio license inquiries about new/  
vanity call signs: 1-888-225-5322  
This will connect you the FCC Na-  
tional Call Center, handled by the  
FCC's Consumer Information Bu-  
reau. Amateurs having ULS prob-  
lems or questions should contact  
the FCC's ULS Technical Support  
staff at: 202-414-1250 or:*

*[ulscomm@fcc.gov](mailto:ulscomm@fcc.gov).*

***FCC Website:***

*<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>*

*New call sign information can  
also be obtained from the ARRL/  
VEC at 860-594-3000.*

*<http://www.arrl.org/arrlyec>*

*The mailing address to the FCC  
is:  
Federal Communications Commis-  
sion,  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554*